

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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“Commercial Vehicle Permit Alert”

The Washington State Patrol (WSP), in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT), will be modifying heavy truck permit sales policies and practices in early 2003. This action will potentially impact the business practices of tens of thousands of truck drivers annually who routinely purchase permits for oversize or overweight vehicles, diesel fuel, and vehicle licensing.

Washington is one of the few states where permits are currently available for sale at Ports of Entry 24 hours per day. This practice has been continued to date in the interest of providing a service to the trucking industry despite the fact that the cost to the state of providing personnel to sell permits 24 hours per day has become far greater than the revenue generated by this activity. In most states, truck drivers whose routes bring them into the state during non-business hours must make arrangements to purchase needed permits in advance. Washington State is moving in this direction.

The change in permit sales procedures will occur in two phases. Effective January 1, 2003, permit availability at Washington State Patrol Ports of Entry located at Plymouth (near Kennewick), Bow Hill (near Bellingham), Ridgefield (near Vancouver) and Spokane, will be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. No permits of any kind will be available between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. or on weekends.

The second phase goes into effect July 1, 2003, when the WSP will no longer offer permits for sale. As always, truckers entering Washington may obtain needed permits during business hours (7 a.m. - 5 p.m.) from the DOT utilizing a telephone and fax machine with the use of a credit or debit card. DOT is also exploring options which will include permits available on the internet. Motor carriers are encouraged to use Western Regional Permitting as an option.

Additionally, effective July 1, 2003, trucks entering Washington will be required to have needed permits at the border. Permit enforcement at the Ports of Entry will be limited to warnings until **January 1, 2004**, although units may be placed out of service until the appropriate permit is obtained.

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